

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. An apparatus forming a spa cover lift, comprising:
 - a column assembly having at least one column member which engages a supporting surface and extends upwardly at an approximately single position along the periphery of a spa;
 - at least one pivoting arm assembly which is pivotally connected to said column assembly along a main pivot axis for pivot movement between a deployed position and a retracted position; said at least one pivoting arm assembly having a first extension which extends to a first side and a second extension which extends to a second side which is in opposing relationship to said first side;
 - at least one extensible strut pivotally connected to said column assembly and pivotally connected to said at least one pivoting arm assembly, said at least one extensible strut being mounted such that the at least one extensible strut is extensible between a contracted condition and an elongated condition by pivotal action of said at least one pivoting arm assembly relative to said column assembly;
 - at least one bumper for engagement by said at least one pivoting arm assembly when the at least one pivoting arm assembly is in the retracted position.

2. An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the at least one
extensible strut is constructed to function as a limiting stop when the at
least one pivoting arm assembly is pivoted to the retracted position.

3. An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the at least one
extensible strut is constructed so as to function as a mechanical damper to
slow pivotal action of the at least one pivoting arm assembly.

4. An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the at least one
extensible strut is constructed so as to function as a mechanical damper to
slow pivotal action of the at least one pivoting arm assembly.

5. An apparatus according to claim 1 and further comprising grips
formed upon the distal ends of the first and second extensions of said at
least one pivoting arm assembly.

6. An apparatus according to claim 1 and further comprising at least one foot piece which is connected to the column assembly and is adapted to be inserted under a spa to assist in holding the cover lift in position.

7. An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the first and second extensions of the at least one pivoting arm assembly have at least one detachable connector for connecting portions of the first and second extensions into the at least one pivoting arm assembly.

8. An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the at least one pivoting arm assembly is formed using first and second arm assemblies.

9. An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the at least one pivoting arm assembly is formed using first and second arm assemblies which are connected together to pivot in connected relationship.

10. An apparatus forming a combined spa cover and cover lift assembly, comprising:

- a spa cover having two portions which are joined by a folding joint;
- a column assembly having at least one column member which engages a supporting surface and extends upwardly at an approximately single position along the periphery of a spa;
- at least one pivoting arm assembly which is pivotally connected to said column assembly along a main pivot axis for pivot movement between a deployed position and a retracted position

said at least one pivoting arm assembly having:

- a main arm which extends inwardly from the column assembly toward the folding joint of the spa cover;
- a first extension at least portions of which extend along the folding joint of the spa cover and extend beyond a first side of the spa cover;
- a second extension at least portions of which extend along the folding joint of the spa cover and extend beyond a second side of the spa cover;

and wherein the pivoting arm assembly extends beneath at least one of said two portions of the spa cover.

11. An apparatus according to claim 10 and further comprising at least one extensible strut pivotally connected to said column assembly and pivotally connected to said at least one pivoting arm assembly, said at least one extensible strut being mounted such that the at least one extensible strut is extensible between a contracted condition and an elongated condition by pivotal action of said at least one pivoting arm assembly relative to said column assembly.

12. An apparatus according to claim 11 wherein the at least one extensible strut is constructed to function as a limiting stop when the at least one pivoting arm assembly is pivoted to the retracted position.

13. An apparatus according to claim 11 wherein the at least one extensible strut is constructed so as to function as a mechanical damper to slow pivotal action of the at least one pivoting arm assembly.

14. An apparatus according to claim 11 wherein the at least one
extensible strut is constructed so as to function as a mechanical damper to
slow pivotal action of the at least one pivoting arm assembly.

15. An apparatus according to claim 10 and further comprising at
least one bumper for engagement by said at least one pivoting arm
assembly when the at least one pivoting arm assembly is in the retracted
position.

16. An apparatus according to claim 10 and further comprising:
at least one bumper for engagement by said at least one pivoting arm
assembly when the at least one pivoting arm assembly is in the retracted
position;

at least one extensible strut pivotally connected to said column
assembly and pivotally connected to said at least one pivoting arm
assembly, said at least one extensible strut being mounted such that the at
least one extensible strut is extensible between a contracted condition and
an elongated condition by pivotal action of said at least one pivoting arm
assembly relative to said column assembly.